

## **4<sup>TH</sup> BRIGADE HISTORY**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division, was constituted on April 16, 1986 in the regular United States Army at Ansbach, Germany. Named the “Iron Eagle Brigade,” it originally provided Command and Control for the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, the 501<sup>st</sup> Attack Helicopter Battalion, the 220<sup>th</sup> Assault Helicopter Company and the 224<sup>th</sup> Assault Helicopter Company. In December 1990, the Iron Eagle Brigade deployed to southwest Asia with the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division to support OPERATION DESERT SHIELD. In February 1991, the Brigade participated in OPERATION DESERT STORM as part of VII Corps and engaged Iraqi units, including the Republican Guard.

In September 1991, 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division, colors were relocated from Ansbach to Erlensee, Germany. The 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade assumed command of the Battalions of the 227<sup>th</sup> Aviation Regiment and the 4<sup>th</sup> Squadron, 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, which were formerly under the control of the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Division. On October 21, 1991, the 4<sup>th</sup> Squadron, 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry was redesignated as the 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry.

From December 1995 to December 1996, the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division, was deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina as part of a multi-national peace implementation force during OPERATION JOINT ENDEAVOR. Aviation Task Force Comanche was the Command and Control Headquarters for 120 Task Force Eagle Helicopters that flew 33,000 hours to compel peace in the war-ravaged Balkans. On February 28, 1997, 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade redesignated its affiliation from the 227<sup>th</sup> Aviation Regiment to the 501<sup>st</sup> Aviation Regiment.

From June 2000 to June 2001, the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division, was again called upon to enforce peace in the Balkans. The Brigade deployed two Task Forces, Nightmare and Dragon, to Kosovo. The overwhelming success of this operation helped stabilize the region and saved countless lives.

From April 2003 until July 2004, the Brigade deployed to Iraq in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM and OPERATION IRON SABRE, where they played a significant role in the security and stabilization of Iraq and its people. Consisting of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-501<sup>st</sup> Aviation Battalion (Flying Dragons), 2-501<sup>st</sup> Aviation Battalion (Iron Knights), 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Regiment (Blackhawks), 69<sup>th</sup> Chemical Company (Triple Threat), 127<sup>th</sup> Aviation Support Battalion (Workhorse), and various other attached units, the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team flew over 39,000 hours in the course of executing 6,747 missions, pumped 3,826,000 gallons of fuel, and apprehended over 100 insurgents and their weapons.

**IRON EAGLE!**